

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215625

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG NO

SUBJECT: NORWAY AND IEP

REF:

1. LARS KORVALD, CHAIRMAN OF NORWEGIAN CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS AT LATTER'S INVITATION SEPTEMBER 26 TO DISCUSS NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN IEP.

2. ENDERS EXPLAINED IMPORTANCE WHICH USG ATTACHES TO IEP AS BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UNDERTAKING. HE SAID THAT AS WE UNDERSTAND NORWEGIAN RESERVATIONS ON IEP, GON IS CONCERNED BOTH BY AUTOMATICITY OF TRIGGER MECHANISM AND POTENTIAL DOMESTIC CRITICISM THAT IEP MIGHT PREJUDICE NORWAY'S CONTROL OVER OIL RESOURCES. ON FORMER POINT, ENDERS REVIEWED REASONS WHY US BELIEVES PROGRAM MUST CONTAIN STRONG PRESUMPTION OF POSITIVE ACTION AND POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD TRIED TO MEET NORWEGIAN CONCERNS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BY PROVIDING CAREFULLY STRUCTURED FAIL SAFE MECHANISM. ON SECOND POINT, ENDERS EXPLAINED THAT NORWAY'S ACTUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE IEP WOULD BE QUITE SMALL IN TERMS OF OIL AND THAT GON WOULD RETAIN FULL CONTROL OVER OIL RESOURCES.

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3. KORVALD NOTED HE HAD BEEN IN US FOR PAST FOUR WEEKS AND THUS NOT FULLY INFORMED ON CURRENT STATUS OF IEP QUESTION IN NORWAY. KORVALD SAID IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT THAT NORWAY (1) BE ABLE TO DEFINE CLEARLY EXTENT OF ITS SHARING OBLIGATIONS IN ADVANCE AND (2) BE ASSURED THAT IEP WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH DEVELOPMENT OF NORWEGIAN EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

4. ENDERS REPLIED IN DETAIL ON BOTH THESE POINTS STRESSING THAT NORWAY'S ACTUAL SHARING OBLIGATIONS WOULD BE QUITE LIMITED AND THAT AGREEMENT CLEARLY PROTECTS NORWEGIAN EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

5. IN REPLY TO KORVALD'S QUESTION WHY USG ATTACHES SUCH IMPORTANCE TO NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION, ENDERS SAID THAT WE BELIEVE IT POLITICALLY IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY SOLIDARITY THAT NORWAY CLEARLY ALIGN ITSELF WITH THIS EFFORT TO REDUCE OUR COLLECTIVE VULNERABILITY TO SUPPLY INTERRUPTIONS. ALSO, IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF NORWAY, AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE ECG, SHOULD NOW DECIDE THAT IT COULD NOT TAKE PART IN THE PRODUCT OF THE ECG'S WORK.

6. KORVALD SAID HE COULD NOT OF COURSE MAKE ANY COMMITMENT ON HIS OWN POSITION IN THE IEP. BUT HE DID PROMISE TO STUDY QUESTION WITH AN OPEN MIND AND TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN PARLIAMENT. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT US, CANADA, AND OTHER NON-EC COUNTRIES WERE COMING INTO IEP. THIS HELPED TO ENSURE THAT IEP WOULD NOT BE SEEN IN NORWAY AS ATTEMPT SOMEHOW TO TAKE NORWAY INTO EC THROUGH A SIDE-DOOR. INGERSOLL

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